Allotment of Flats/Plots in Rohini

3689. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants registered in the year 1981 for allotment of plots/flats under the ROHINI scheme in Delhi left so far;

(b) by when they are likely to be covered for such allotment; and

(c) what is the fate of retiring/retired Government persons, also registered under this scheme in 1981, but not yet covered in any of the draws held so far, and who were to be given priority as announced by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) 1092 registrations were cancelled-withdrawn from a total of 82,384 persons who got registered initially, leaving an effective strength of 81,292. Allotment has since been made in 35,436 cases, leaving a balance of 45,856 registrations who are likely to be covered in 4-5 years' time. This scheme was meant for allotment of plots only.

(c) Rohini Residential Scheme did not provide for separate registration of retired/retiring persons. However, in the year 1987-88, DDA invited applications from those registrants, who had retired or were retiring upto 31-12-88. 433 applications were received, out of which 389 were allotted plots in the year 1989. Again in December, 1989 applications were invited from the registrants, who had retired or were retiring by 31-3-1990. 566 registrants applied. These, along with the balance of 44 from the earlier draw (to whom allotments could not be made due to non-availability of plots under their respective category within the permissible quota of 12% will be included in the next draw, as and when that is held and priority will be given to the 44 balance registrants of the earlier draw.

Commodity Management Board

3690. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Commodity Management Board for export and import of agricultural commodities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government propose to set up a Commodity Management Board for export and import of agricultural commodities with effective representation of farmers and consumers. The legal status, composition, functions, etc., of the proposed Board are under discussion.

White Paper on Suburban Railways

3691. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to issue white paper on Suburban Railways in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) Ministry of Railways proposes to issue a Status Paper on Bombay Railway Suburban system.

(b) and (c) The paper is under preparation.

Proposal for Double Decker Coaches on Suburban Railways

3692. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware of the fact that French National Railways use Double-decker coaches in Suburban of Paris;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to try this experiment on Suburban railways;

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in affirmative what are the details thereof; and

(d) if reply to part (b) above be in negative what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Double Decker coaches at present are used on the Inter-city Expresses only. Considering the high cost of production, use of such coaches may not be financially viable besides being inconvenient for Suburban operation.

Number of persons killed and injured on Suburban Railways, Bombay

3693. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of persons who have been (i) killed and (ii) injured separately in 1990 till date on suburban section of Railways in Bombay suburban, while crossing railway lines, hit by poles while travelling, run over by trains while crossing lines etc.; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to reduce this number ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) 1514 persons were killed and 833 injured during 1990 (upto August).

(b) The following preventive steps have been taken by the Government :—

1. Announcements are made on Public Address system at the stations.
2. Posters and caution boards are displayed for warning public.
3. Raids are conducted to prevent roof top & foot board travel and tress-passing.
4. Foot-over bridges have been/are being provided at affected places.

Replacement of Rake of the train 'Palace on Wheels'

3694. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) when the Project 'Palace on Wheels' was introduced and what was the number of passengers carried and the occupancy percentage for the last three years and upto 31st July, 1990;

(b) whether in 1989 it was decided to have a new rake Centrally airconditioned to be run as 'Palace on Wheels' for which the responsibility was announced by the Railways by sharing 60 per cent and 40 per cent by R.T.D.C., if so, what is the Ministry of Railway's share for the year 1990-91 and the amount paid so far to State Government;

(c) what is the present number of coaches including residential coaches, restaurant cars and service coaches in this train and what was the cost of renovation during 1989-90 and likely cost in 1990-91; and

(d) by when, decision on cost of sharing between the Central Government and State Government of Rajasthan regarding new rake is likely to be taken and what is the total investment expected in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) The 'Palace on Wheels' train was introduced in 1982. This train runs during winter season between October to March. The number of passengers carried and the occupancy percentage for the last three years are as under :

Year	*No. of passengers carried*	*Occupancy percentage*
1987-88	1747	75.1
1988-89	2212	93.1
1989-90	2282	95.06

(b) It has been decided to make a new airconditioned rake, which is to be commisioned in October, 1991. In 1990-91, the old rake will be run and the earnings will be shared in the ratio of 65 : 35 between Railways and RTDC. The ratio of share for the new AC rake has not yet been decided. The share of RTDC out of the net earnings from 1982-83 amounts to Rs. 373 lakhs.